



Washington-Rochambeau

REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE NPS STUDY

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NPS Study

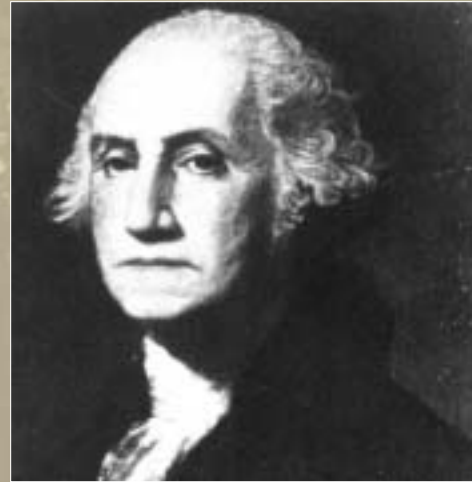
- **Legislation and Intent**
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- **Study Team**
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- **Historical Summary**
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- **National Significance**
- **Management Alternatives**



Legislation & Intent

- **Congressionally authorized study:**

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Heritage Act of 2000
(PL 106-473 introduced by CT Rep. Larson and Sen. Lieberman)



- **Tasks:**

- complete resource study of 600-mi route (MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA) used by Generals Washington and Rochambeau (1780-83)
- determine significance
- conduct feasibility study and Environmental Impact Study



Purpose of the Study

- Determine if Route is **eligible** as **National Historic Trail (NHT)**.
- National Trails System Act **criteria for eligibility**:
 - historical use of the trail
 - national significance to broad facet of American history
 - potential for historic interpretation/public recreation
- Identify **alternatives** (with, w/out federal involvement) **to preserve and interpret** this unique event and its trace on the land.
- Future designation could **enable NPS partnerships, projects, activities for preservation and interpretation.**



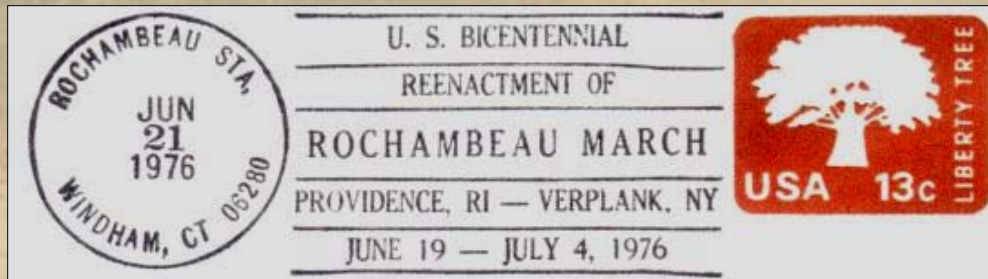
Scope and Schedule

- **Historical narrative, bibliography, and resource inventory, 2001-02**
- **Route reconnaissance, 2001-03**
- **Public meetings, stakeholder meetings, 2002-2004**
- **Newsletters and outreach, 2003-04**
- **Statement of Significance Report, 2003**
to NPS Washington office, January
NPS Advisory Board Landmarks Committee, April
NPS Advisory Board, June
- **Study/Environmental Impact Statement Report, 2004**
feasibility of designation and management alternatives, w/wo NPS involvement
 - **Draft Study/EIS, April**
 - **Public meetings, June**
 - **Public feedback, consultation and comments incorporated, August, September**
 - **Final Study/EIS submitted to Congress, October**
- **Record of Decision released, December**
- **Recognition in place for 225th Anniversary of the Washington-Rochambeau March in 2006**



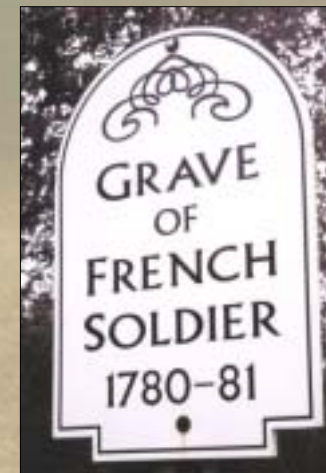
Where are We Now?

- It has been determined that the **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route** is nationally significant, after:
 - Historic resource inventory and narrative
 - Public outreach, stakeholder meetings, Scholars' Symposium
 - National significance report approved by the NPS Advisory Board in June 2003



Where are We Now?

- **Now conducting feasibility Study and EIS:**
 - Continued route reconnaissance (resource conditions, potential for visitor experience / interpretation)
 - Route(s) selection
 - Designation and management alternatives (assessing different ways to manage and commemorate, w/ without NPS involvement)
 - More public outreach
 - Compliance (NEPA)
 - Final report (Oct 04 and ROD Dec 04)
 - Recognition in place: 225th Anniversary in 2006



Study Team

- **National Park Service**

- **Northeast Region**

- [formerly Boston Support Office and Philadelphia Support Office]

- **National Capitol Region**

- **Consultants**

- Goody, Clancy & Associates, planners
 - Dr. Robert Selig, PhD, historian
 - Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin, EIS

from Newport



to Yorktown

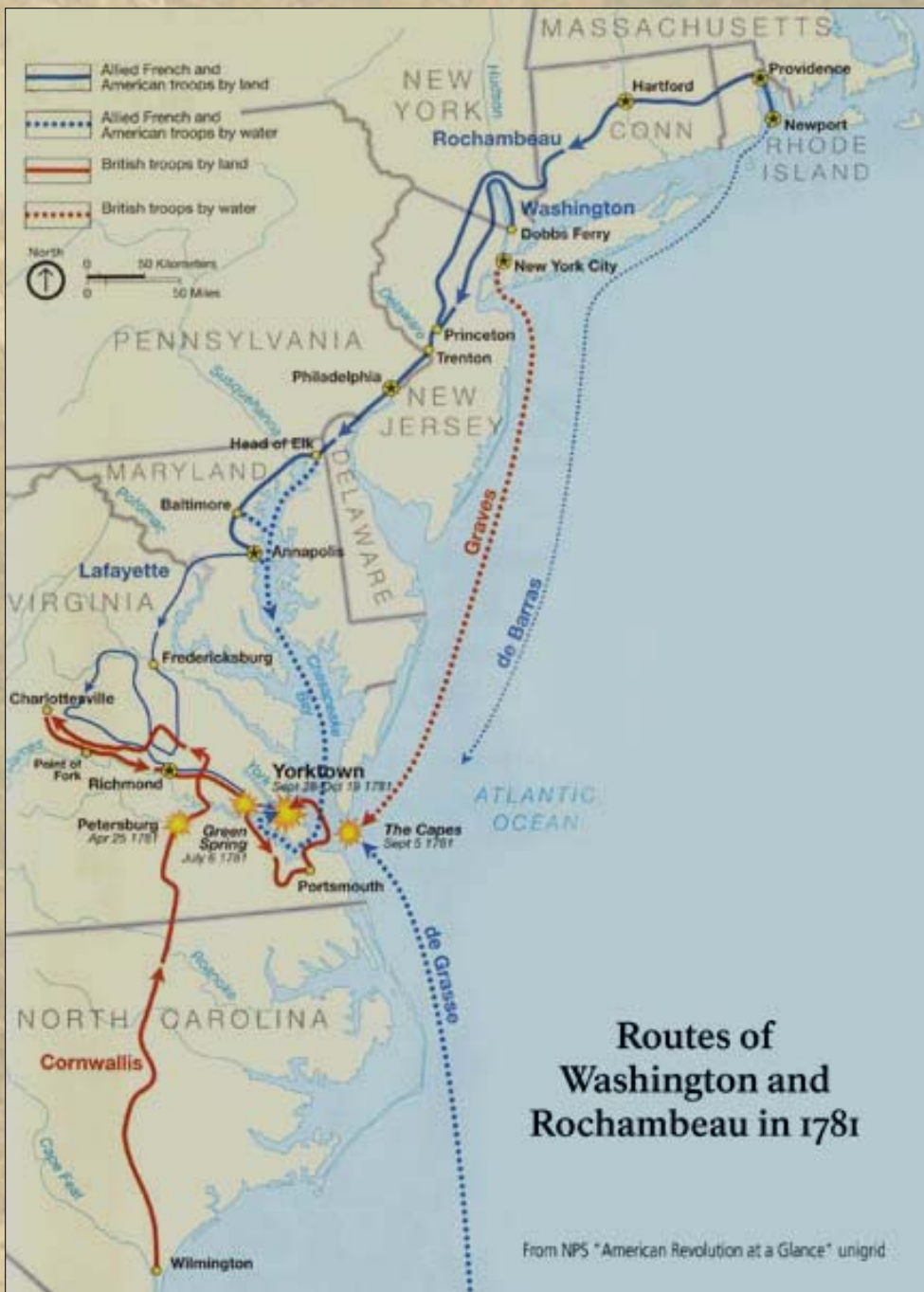
Stakeholders

- **State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs)**
- **W3R Committees**
- **National / international historical and patriotic organizations**
- **Local historical societies**
- **National / state historical parks and sites**
- **Non-profit groups for historical education and interpretation, museums**
- **Recreation and tourism public agencies and private businesses**
- **Schools, colleges, universities**
- **Owners of key sites and structures**
- **Elected officials and constituents of areas traversed by the Route**
- **Interested individuals, groups, and benefactors**



Route

**Newport and Boston
to Yorktown,
and return route to
Boston**



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GC
&A

Route

Segments

French Army 1780-81

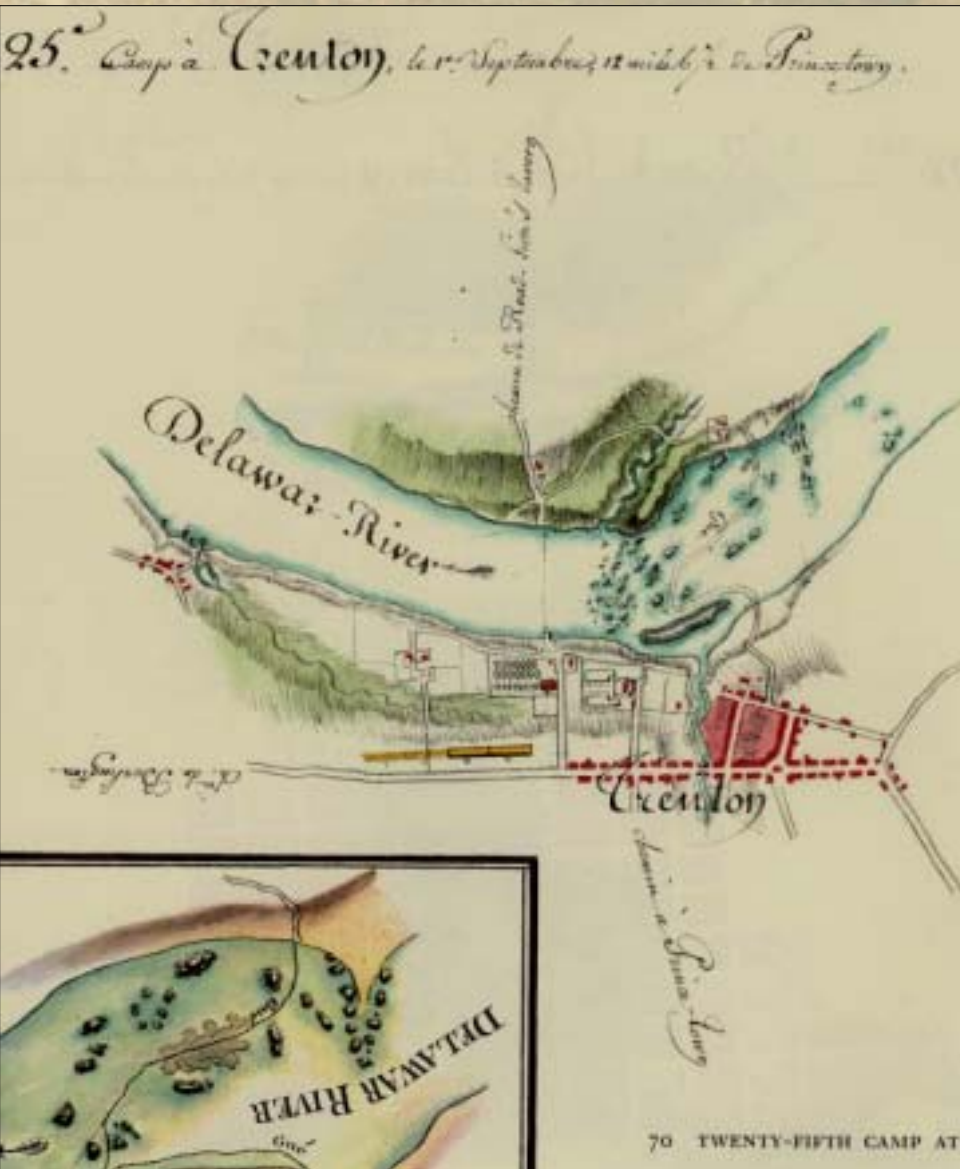
- Newport, RI and Boston, MA to Philipsburg, NY

French and American Armies 1781

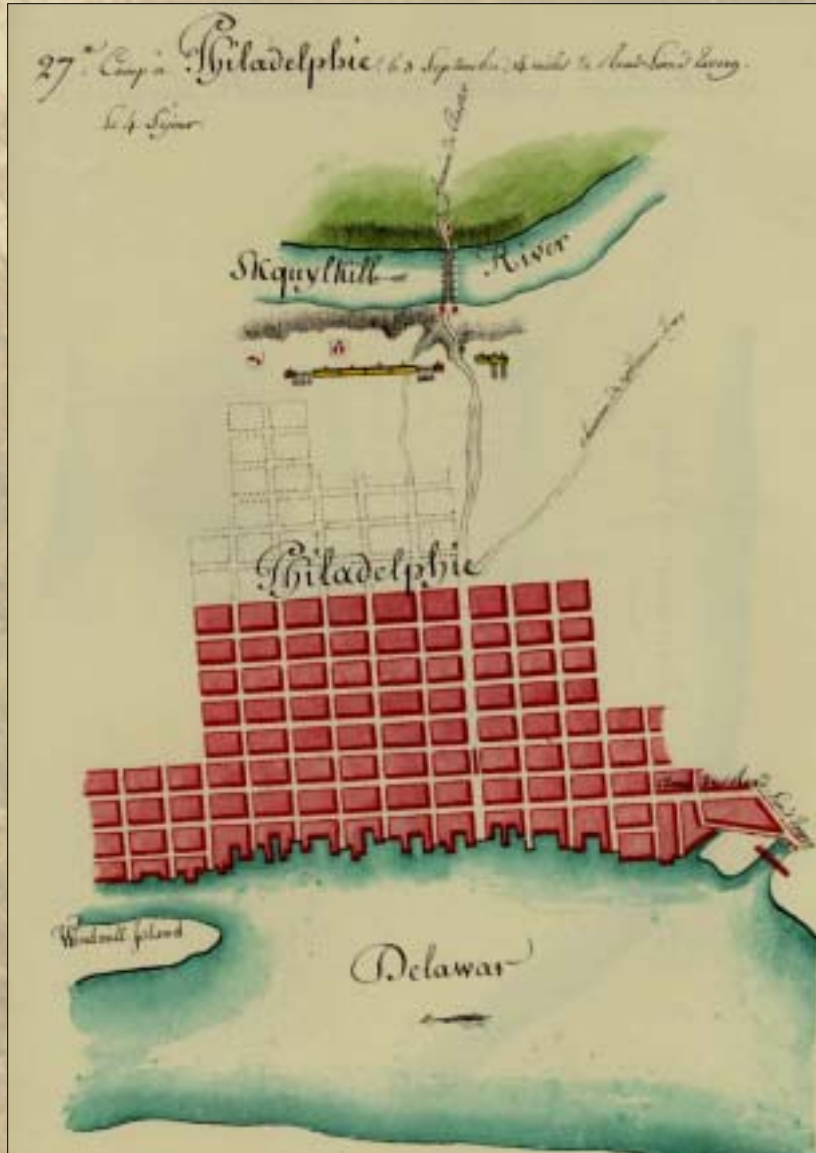
- Phillipsburg to Head of Elk, MD
- Head of Elk to Yorktown, VA

French Army 1781-1783

- Winter Quarters in Williamsburg, VA, Wilmington, DE
- Return to points north and to Boston, MA



Route





Washington-Rochambeau

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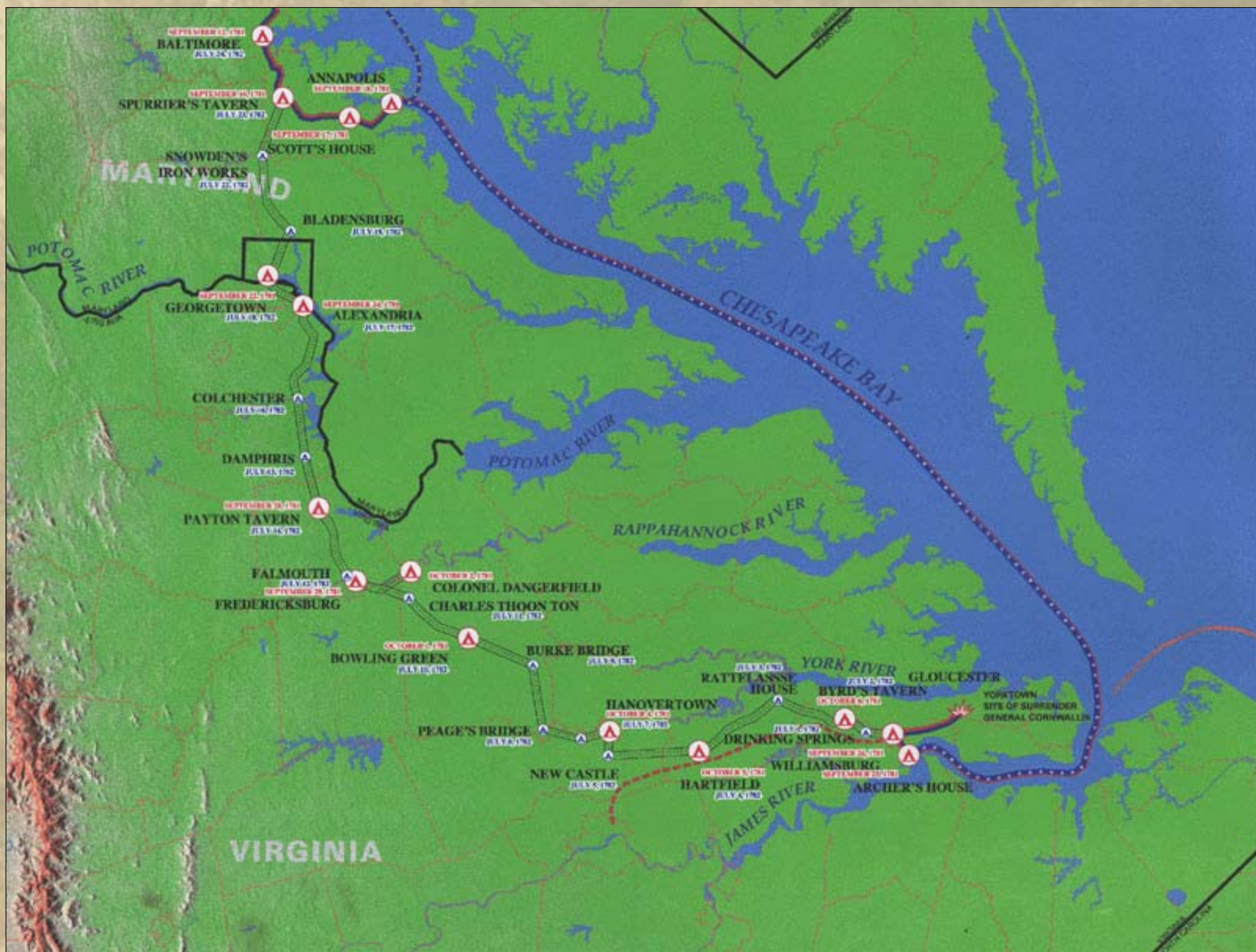
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Historical Summary

1780

June 10: Sent by the King of France to help General Washington defeat the British, French General comte de Rochambeau sails into Newport, Rhode Island with an army of 5,800 officers and men.

September 21: Generals Washington and Rochambeau meet at the Hartford Conference. Decide not to start a military campaign that season but to meet again in the spring and plan a march to combine their armies.

Winter 1780-81: The main French army winters in Newport; the cavalry under Lauzun's Legion winters in Lebanon, Connecticut. The Continentals are encamped near Newburgh along the Hudson in New York.

Historical Summary

1781

May 22: Washington and Rochambeau meet at the Wethersfield Conference to discuss their strategy for the upcoming campaign. Washington wants to attack New York, occupied by the British army under General Clinton and the British navy under Admiral Howe. Rochambeau would prefer a southern attack, but defers to the American commander. Both believe that victory depends on the assistance of the French navy. Neither knows when and where the French navy may sail.

June 10-July 6: The French army marches from Providence, Rhode Island to Philipsburg, New York, to meet with the American army. Lauzun's Legion marches from Lebanon along routes closer to the coast and joins the rest of the troops at Philipsburg.

Historical Summary

1781

July 21-23: Both commanders and their officers conduct a reconnaissance expedition of New York's defenses.

August 14: Washington and Rochambeau receive the great news that French Admiral DeGrasse is sailing a large fleet from the West Indies to the Chesapeake Bay, to assist the allied armies. Immediately Washington agrees with Rochambeau on a southern campaign: to march their combined armies to Yorktown, Virginia, where General Cornwallis has fortified the town and entrenched his troops.

August 15-18: To keep Clinton believing that the allied armies are still planning to attack New York, Washington sends false letters to be intercepted by spies, builds camp ovens along the New Jersey shore, and keeps their destination secret from the troops.

Historical Summary

1781

August 18: The Franco-American armies depart Philipsburg. In five weeks, they march through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, and take water routes through Delaware, Maryland and Virginia, reaching Williamsburg in late September. In Maryland, at the head of the Chesapeake, most of the American army is transported by boats, while the French infantry, Lauzun's Legion, and the wagon train take separate land routes through Virginia.

September 5: In the Battle of the Capes, Admiral De Grasse prevents a British fleet from entering Chesapeake Bay. With the French in control of the water routes, Cornwallis is trapped, unable to escape from Yorktown or receive reinforcements from New York.

French siege artillery, which had stayed in Newport, is sailed down to Yorktown with De Barras and troops.

Historical Summary

1781

September 28: The Franco-American armies reach Yorktown, begin the siege.

October 9: Siege guns open fire and pound the British defenses for ten days.

October 19: Cornwallis surrenders. 8,000 British troops lay down their arms to 18,000 American and French troops under Washington and Rochambeau.

November: The Continental Army marches north to its winter quarters in New York. Admiral DeGrasse sails from Yorktown for Martinique.

Historical Summary

Winter 1781-82: French forces winter in and around Williamsburg.

1782

July: Rochambeau's infantry begins its march north to Boston, using many of the same campsites that were established on the march to Yorktown.

December: Lauzun's Legion winters in Wilmington, Delaware, will return to France the following year.

December 25: Rochambeau's infantry sails out of Boston for the Caribbean.

Types of Resources

- **Road Segments**
- **Campsites**
- **Buildings and Structures**
- **Associated Sites**
- **Commemorative Monuments and Signs**

Road Segments

where the troops marched...



Campsites

approximately 75 on the way to Yorktown -
at least 20 more
on the return march



Buildings and Structures

officers' lodging and other buildings used by the armies



Associated Sites

open spaces and sites, and structures associated with the route, where interpretation could occur



Commemorative Monuments and Signs

recognition of the Route, its events
and leaders, by succeeding
generations



Significance Statements

- I The Washington-Rochambeau Route is of national significance as a *domestic cross-cultural experience*.

The Route is significant as:

- an indispensable component of the campaign of 1781: it is the route that took the combined Franco-American armies to victory;
- a watershed in the development of an American identity: in 1781-82, the thirteen colonies took a gigantic step toward becoming a nation;
- a prime illustration of the American Revolutionary War as a truly diverse effort.
- a visible expression of the hope for independence and the gratitude that greeted the returning French army on its march north in 1782.

Significance Statements

II The Washington-Rochambeau Route is of national significance as a *manifestation of the international war effort*.

The Route is significant as:

- an expression of the global character of the American War for Independence;
- the culmination of the crucial contributions of France to the achievement of American Independence
- an example of joint Franco-American cooperation under Washington's overall leadership;
- the first true acknowledgement of the United States as a sovereign nation.

Alternatives Being Considered

- **No Action**
no federal action, states and private groups continue local efforts
- **Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail**
trail designated under the National Trails System Act
advisory council and trail association partner with the NPS to manage the trail
associated sites accredited to provide interpretation
- **Washington-Rochambeau Commemorative Partnership**
jurisdiction of existing NHP extended over the route
public/private partnership organization formed with larger network of thematically related groups, sites, and resources